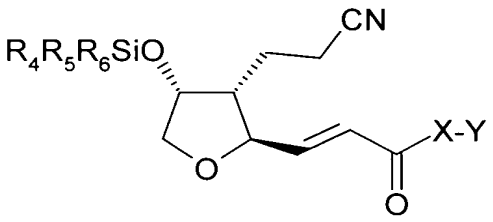
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

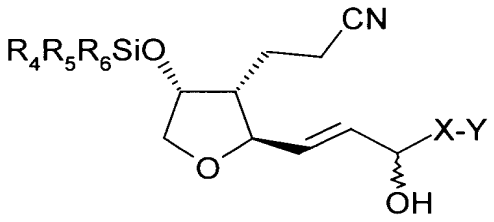
Claims 1-6 (cancelled).

Claim. 7. (New) A method of selectively reducing enone of formula XIV:



XIV

to allylic alcohol of formula XV:



XV

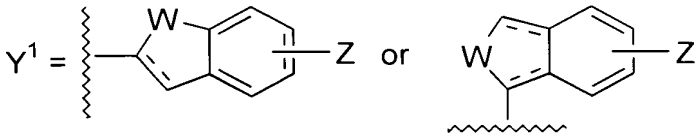
wherein:

R_4, R_5, R_6 = same or different = alkyl, cycloalkyl, or aryl;

X = $(CH_2)_q$ or $(CH_2)_qO$; q = 1-6; and

Y = a phenyl ring optionally substituted with alkyl, halo, trihalomethyl, alkoxy, acyl, or a free or functionally modified hydroxy or amino group;

or X-Y = $(CH_2)_mY^1$, m = 0-6,



wherein:

W = CH_2, O, $S(O)_m$, NR^{10}, CH_2CH_2, CH=CH, CH_2O, $CH_2S(O)_m$, CH=N, or CH_2NR^{10};

m = 0-2;

R^{10} = H, alkyl, acyl;

Z = H, alkyl, alkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, halo, trihalomethyl, amino, alkylamino, acylamino, OH; and

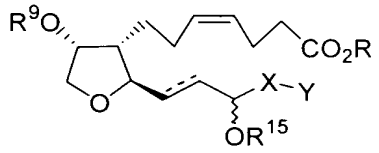
---- = single or double bond;

comprising, contacting said enone with a reducing agent selected from the group consisting of: (-)-*B*-chlorodiisopinocampheylborane and (+)-*B*-chlorodiisopinocampheylborane, in an amount sufficient to effect such reduction.

Claim 8. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the reducing agent is (-)-*B*-chlorodiisopinocampheylborane.

Claim 9. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the enone is (2R (1E), 3R, 4R)-3-[Tetrahydro-(2-(4-(3-chlorophenoxy)-3-oxo-1-butenyl)-4-(t-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)-3-furanyl]propanenitrile, and the resulting alcohol is (2R (1E, 3R), 3R, 4R)-3-[Tetrahydro-(2-(4-(3-chlorophenoxy)-3-hydroxy-1-butenyl)-4-(t-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)-3-furanyl]propanenitrile.

Claim 10. (New) A process for the preparation of 11-oxa prostaglandin analogs of formula I:



I

wherein:

R is H or a pharmaceutically acceptable cationic salt moiety, or CO_2R forms a pharmaceutically acceptable ester moiety

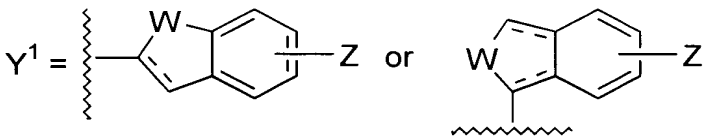
R^9O and $R^{15}O$ are the same or different and constitute a free or functionally modified hydroxy group;

--- is a single or *trans* double bond;

X = $(CH_2)_q$ or $(CH_2)_qO$; q = 1-6; and

Y = a phenyl ring optionally substituted with alkyl, halo, trihalomethyl, alkoxy, acyl, or a free or functionally modified hydroxy or amino group;

or X-Y = $(CH_2)_mY^1$, m = 0-6,



wherein:

W = CH_2, O, $S(O)_m$, NR^{10}, CH_2CH_2, CH=CH, CH_2O, $CH_2S(O)_m$, CH=N, or CH_2NR^{10};

m = 0-2;

R^{10} = H, alkyl, acyl;

Z = H, alkyl, alkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, halo, trihalomethyl, amino, alkylamino, acylamino, OH; and

---- = single or double bond;

comprising:

a) converting 1,4-anhydro-D-glucitol to the corresponding ortho ester;

b) silylating the ortho ester to yield to the corresponding silyl ether;

c) removing the ortho ester group of the silyl ether to yield to the corresponding triol;

d) converting the triol to the corresponding acetonide;

e) oxidizing the free OH group of the acetonide to yield to the corresponding ketone;

f) converting the ketone to the corresponding unsaturated ester;

g) hydrogenating the unsaturated ester to yield the saturated ester;

h) reducing the saturated ester to yield to the corresponding alcohol;

i) converting the alcohol to the coresponding sulfonate;

j) reacting the sulfonate with cyanide to yield to the corresponding nitrile;

k) oxidatively cleaving the acetonide grouping of the nitrile to yield to the corresponding nitrile aldehyde;

l) converting the nitrile aldehyde to the corresponding enone;

m) reducing the enone with a reducing agent selected from (-)-*B*-chlorodiisopinocampheylborane and (+)-*B*-chlorodiisopinocampheylborane, to yield to the corresponding alcohol;

n) silylating the alcohol to yield to the corresponding bis silyl ether;

o) reducing the bis silyl ether to yield to the corresponding aldehyde;

p) condensing the aldehyde to yield to the corresponding ester; and

q) desilylating the ester to yield to the corresponding end product.

Claim 11. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein for step (m), the enone is 2R (1E), 3R, 4R)-3-[Tetrahydro-(2-(4-(3-chlorophenoxy)-3-oxo-1-butenyl)-4-(t-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)-3-furanyl]propanenitrile and the corresponding alcohol is (2R (1E, 3R), 3R, 4R)-3-[Tetrahydro-(2-(4-(3-chlorophenoxy)-3-hydroxy-1-butenyl)-4-(t-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)-3-furanyl]propanenitrile.